Num. DXXV.

The SPECTATOR.

Ὃς δ' ἂν τὸ χαίρειν ἐπ' ἀρετῇ τ' ἄγῃ τρέπῃ,
Ζηλωτὸς ἀνθρώποισιν ——— Eurip.

Saturday, November 1. 1712.

It is my Custom to take Opportunities of enquiring, from time to time, what Success my Speculations meet with in the Town. I am glad to find, in particular, that Discourses on Marriage have been well received. A Friend of mine gives me to understand, that in *Doctor's Commons*, that more Licences have been taken out there of late than usual. I am likewise informed of several pretty Fellows, who have lately set to commence Heads of Families by the favourable Opportunity. One of them writes me word that he is ready to enter into the Bonds of Matrimony, provided I will give it him under my Hand (as I now do) that a Man may shew his Head in good Company after he is married, and that he need not be ashamed to treat a Woman of Quality, who puts her self into his Power for Life.

I have other Letters on this Subject, which say that I am attempting to make a Revolution in the Realm of Gallantry, and that the Consequence of it will be, that a great deal of the bright liest Wit and Satyr of the last Age will be lost. That the dreadful Fellow, upon changing his Condition, will be no longer puzzled how to stand the Raillery of his facetious Companions; that he need not fear he married only to plunder an Heiress of her Estate, nor pretend that he uses her ill, to avoid the scandalous Name of a fond Husband.

Indeed if I may speak my Opinion of great part of the Writings which once prevailed among us under the Notion of Humour, they are such as would tempt one to think there had been an Association among the Wits of those Times to rally Humanity out of our Island. A State of Wedlock was the common Mark for all the Adventurers in Farce and Comedy, as well as the Essayers in Lampoon and Satyr, to shoot at; and nothing was more standing Wit in all Clubs of fashionable and gay Conversation. It was determined among these airy Criticks, that the Appellation of *a fine Man* should signify *a Spiritless Fellow*. And I am apt to think it was about the same time, that *Unnatural*, a Word so peculiarly elegant in our Language that some have affirmed it cannot well be expressed in any other, came first to be rendered Suspicious, and in danger of being transferred from its original Sense, to so distant an Idea as that of *Folly*.

I must confess it has been my Ambition, in the Course of my Writings, to restore, as well as I was able, the proper Ideas of Things. And as I have attempted this already on the Subject of Marriage, in several Papers, I shall here add some further Observations which occur to me on the same Head.

Nothing seems to be thought, by our fine Gentlemen, so indispensable an Ornament in fashionable Life, as Love. *A Knight Errant*, says *Don Quixot, without a Mistress, is like a Tree without Leaves*; and a Man of Mode among Us, who has not some Fair One to sigh for, might as well pretend to appear dressed, without his Periwig. We have Lovers in Prose innumerable. All our Pretenders to Rhime are professed Inamorato's; and there is scarce a Poet, good or bad, to be heard of, who has not some real or supposed *Sacharissa* to improve his Vein.

If Love be any Refinement, *Conjugal Love* must be certainly so in a much higher Degree. There is no Comparison between the frivolous Affectation of attracting the Eyes of Women with whom you are only captivated by Way of Amusement, and of whom perhaps you know nothing more than their Features, and a regular and uniform Endeavour to make your self valuable, both as a Friend and Lover, to one whom you have chosen to be the Companion of your Life. The first is the Spring of a thousand Fopperies, silly Artifices, Falshoods, and perhaps Barbarities; or at best arises no higher than to a kind of Dancing-School Breeding, to give the Person a more sparkling Air. The latter is the Parent of substantial Virtues and agreeable Qualities, and cultivates the Mind, while it improves the Behaviour. The Passion of Love to a Mistress, where it is most Sincere, resembles too much the Flame of a Feaver; that to a Wife is like the Vital Heat. I

(Price Two pence.)

I have often thought, if the Letters written by Men of Good-nature to their Wives, were to be compared with those written by them of Gallantry to their Miſtreſſes, the former, notwithſtanding any Inequality of Stile, would appear to have the Advantage. Friendſhip, Tenderneſs and Conſtancy, dreſt in a Simplicity of Expreſſion, recommend themſelves by a more native Elegance, than paſſionate Raptures, extravagant Encomiums, and ſlavish Adoration. If we were admitted to ſearch the Cabinet of the beautiful *Narciſſa*, among heaps of Epiſtles from ſeveral Admirers which are there preſerved with equal Care, how few ſhould we find but would make any one Sick in the reading, except her who is flattered by them? But in how different a Stile muſt the wiſe *Benevolus*, who converſes with that good Senſe and Good-humour among all his Friends, write to a Wife who is the worthy Object of his utmoſt Affection? *Benevolus*, both in Publick and Private, on all Occaſions of Life, appears to have every good Quality and deſirable Ornament. Abroad he is reverenc'd and eſteemed; at home beloved and happy. The Satisfaction he enjoys there ſettles into an habitual Complacency, which ſhines in his Countenance, enlivens his Wit, and ſeaſons his Converſation. Even thoſe of his Acquaintance, who have never ſeen him in his Retirement, are Sharers in the Happineſs of it; and it is very much owing to his being the beſt and beſt beloved of Husbands, that he is the moſt ſtedfaſt of Friends, and the moſt agreeable of Companions.

There is a ſenſible Pleaſure in contemplating ſuch beautiful Inſtances of domeſtick Life. The Happineſs of the Conjugal State appears heightened to the higheſt Degree it is capable of, when we ſee two Perſons of accompliſhed Minds, not only united in the ſame Intereſts and Affections, but in their Taſte of the ſame Improvements, Pleaſures and Diverſions. *Pliny*, one of the fineſt Gentlemen, and politeſt Writers of the Age in which he lived, has left us, in his Letter to *Hiſpulla* his Wife's Aunt, one of the moſt agreeable Family Pieces of this Kind I have ever met with. I ſhall end this Diſcourſe with a Tranſlation of it; and I believe the Reader will be of my Opinion, that *Conjugal Love* is drawn in it with a Delicacy which makes it appear to be, as I have repreſented it, an Ornament as well as a Virtue.

PLINY *to* HISPULLA.

'AS I remember that great Affection which was
'between you and your excellent Brother,
'and know you love his Daughter as your own,
'ſo as not only to expreſs the Tenderneſs of the
'beſt of Aunts, but even to ſupply that of the
'beſt of Fathers, I am ſure it will be a Pleaſure
'to you to hear, that ſhe proves worthy of her Fa-
'ther, worthy of You, and of your and her An-
'ceſtors. Her Ingenuity is admirable; her Frugality extraordinary. She loves me, the ſureſt Pledge
'of her Virtue; and adds to this a wonderful Diſpoſition to Learning, which ſhe has acquired from
'her Affection to me. She reads my Writings,
'ſtudies them, and even gets them by Heart.
'You'd ſmile to ſee the Concern ſhe is in when
'I have a Cauſe to plead, and the Joy ſhe ſhews
'when it is over. She finds Means to have the
'firſt News brought her of the Succeſs I meet with
'in Court, how I am heard, and what Decree is
'made. If I recite any thing in Publick, ſhe can-
'not refrain from placing her ſelf privately in ſome
'Corner to hear, where with the utmoſt delight ſhe
'feaſts on my Applauſes. Sometimes ſhe ſings my
'Verſes, and accompanies them with the Lute,
'without any Maſter, except Love, the beſt of In-
'ſtructors. From theſe Inſtances I take the moſt
'certain Omens of our perpetual and encreaſing
'Happineſs; ſince her Affection is not founded on
'my Youth and Perſon, which muſt gradually de-
'cay, but ſhe is in Love with the immortal Part
'of me, my Glory and Reputation. Nor indeed
'could leſs be expected from one who had the
'Happineſs to receive her Education from you,
'who in your Houſe was accuſtomed to every
'thing that was virtuous and decent, and even began
'to love me by your Recommendation. For as
'you had always the greateſt Reſpect for my Mo-
'ther, you were pleaſed from my Infancy to form
'me, to commend me, and kindly to preſage I
'ſhould be one Day what my Wife fancies I am.
'Accept therefore our united Thanks; mine, that
'you have beſtowed her on me, and hers, that you
'have given me to her, as a mutual Grant of Love
'and Felicity.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.
By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Saturday, being the 18th Day of November, will be preſented a Play call'd, The unhappy Favourite, or, The Earl of Eſſex. The Queen by Mrs. Knight, Penelope by Mrs. Rogers, Lætitia by Mrs. Porter, Villiers by Mr. Wilks, Southampton by Mr. Mills, Raleigh by Mr. Keen. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons can be admitted behind the Scenes.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

A Memorial to Proteſtants on the Fifth of November, containing a more full Diſcovery of ſome Particulars relating to the happy Deliverance of King James I. and the Three Eſtates of the Realm of England from the moſt Traiterous and Bloody intended Miſchief by Gun-Powder, Anno 1605. In a Letter to a Friend of Mr. [illegible]. Printed for John Churchill, at the Black Swan in Pater-noſter Row. Pr. 6 d.

For the Conveniency of all Perſons concerned in the preſent Lotteries, at Andrew Bell's at the Croſs-keys and Bible in Cornhill, is open'd an Exact Numerical Regiſter, where all Perſons may have their Tickets enter'd at 6 d. per Ticket, and as ſoon as any Ticket is drawn, an exact Account ſhall immediately be given them of the Succeſs, whether Blank or Prize, either in Town or by the firſt Poſt to any Part of the Country. N. B. At the ſame Place is kept an Exact Numerical Book of the Five Claſſes, in the 1800000 l. Lottery; whereby in one Minute any Perſon may ſee in what Claſſes their Ticket is drawn, with the Courſe of Payment. There will likewiſe be kept a Numerical Book, by the ſaid Andrew Bell, where any Perſon may ſee their Numbers, whether Blank or Prize, in the 1000 l. Lottery for 1800000 l. in the Year of Drawing, which begins Nov. 20. Conſtant Attendance is given from Morning till Night.

Whereas John Prince, John Sadler, and William Jodrell, Mercers, at the Black Lyon in Kings-ſtreet Covent-Garden, did ſome time ago in ſeveral News Papers give Notice, that they were leaving off their Trade, which two of them have done, but the ſaid William Jodrell having entred into Partnerſhip with Mr. Mainwaring Maſon, does continue the Trade in the ſame Shop, and have now in a large Stock of the neweſt Fashion Mercery-goods, both Rich and Slight. Where all Perſons may be ſupplied at reaſonable Rates.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley*, and *J. Tonſon*: And Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane*.